



# The Road Safety Wales Low Down

**No 5**  
**March 2018**

**In This Issue:**

[MOT at Three Years](#)

[Now You See Him](#)

[Do More Online](#)

[Tycroes Primary](#)

[MORR](#)

[Motorway Lessons](#)

[Op Snap](#)

[Newport Winner](#)

[Laser Qualifications](#)

[Code Challenge](#)

[Swedish Model](#)

See Road Safety Wales  
on:

[Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#)

Compiled by:

**Ann Horton, RoSPA**

**02920 250 600**

[ahorton@rospa.com](mailto:ahorton@rospa.com)

Road Safety Wales is not  
responsible for the content  
of external internet sites.

## A Vehicle's First MOT Test to Remain at Three Years



The Department for Transport (DfT) announced the result of their consultation to extend a vehicle's first MOT to four years.

Most of those responding to the consultation were against the proposals on safety grounds, arguing that the savings to motorists were outweighed by the risk to road users and the test often highlights upcoming issues affecting the vehicle. A public survey for DfT by Populus also showed fewer than half of people were in favour of the change.

Roads Minister Jesse Norman said:

"We have some of the safest roads in the world, and are always looking at ways of making them safer. Although modern cars are better built and safer than when the MOT test was last changed 50 years ago, there has been a clear public concern that any further changes should not put people's lives at risk. We are looking at further research to ensure the MOT test evolves with the demands of modern motoring."

For further information please [click here](#).

## Now You See Him, Now You Don't



Although motorcyclists represent just 0.7% of road traffic in Wales, they account for 23% of killed or seriously injured road casualties. Through the use of social media Road Safety Wales partners will be sharing this image to remind all road users that motorcyclists are exposed to greater risk on the roads.

As we all know, motorcyclists are often also drivers and depending on which mode of transport they use on a particular day, they could be drastically more at risk of being involved in a serious collision. Latest figures for Wales show that motorcyclists are 86 times more at risk of being killed or seriously injured than any other driver.

Reducing motorcycling casualties across Wales remains a key priority for partners in Road Safety Wales and raising awareness of the increased level of risk experienced by riders of motorcycles is one of the measures being used.

The latest Welsh Government statistical bulletin on Motorcycle User Casualties 2016 [can be viewed here](#).

## Do More Online



The Driver and Vehicle Licensing Authority and the Driver and Vehicle Standards Agency have recently expanded the services that they offer to drivers online. It is now possible to tell DVLA that you have [sold your car](#), reclaim any [road tax due](#) to you, and [pay a fine](#). The DVSA has launched services where you can check whether a vehicle is subject to a [safety recall notice](#), check a vehicles [mot-history](#), and get a reminder that your [MoT is due](#), either by text or email. The Motor Insurers' Bureau has launched a service where you can [check the insurance details](#) of other parties involved in a road traffic accident at the roadside.

## Tycores Primary Schoolchildren on a Mission

Tycores Primary schoolchildren are on a mission to find a new lollipop person to help them cross the road safely.



Pupils have been without a School Crossing Patrol since last April. The school sprung into action with the help of the council's road safety team and launched a design a banner competition to help attract interest. The banner is draped over the school gates and the children hope those that pass the gates will be encouraged to apply for the position. The winning entry was Year 2 pupil, Ava Beck and the runners up were Year 4's Aliyah Beck and Year 1 Jada Findlay. Entries were judged by the council's road safety team and Cllr Tina Higgins. Each received a road safety goody bag. Patrols are also being sought for Kidwelly, Drefach and Ffairfach schools as well as casuals to cover many areas across the county.

## An Introduction to Managing Occupational Road Risk

RoSPA Wales has developed a bilingual guide to help employers navigate their way through the subject of managing occupational road risk.



Driving is the most dangerous work activity that most people do, and it contributes to far more accidental deaths and serious injuries than all other work-related activities. Very few organisations can operate without using the road. Millions of vehicles - lorries, vans, taxis, buses, emergency service vehicles, company cars, motorcycles and bicycles - are used for work purposes, and many more people work on foot on the road - maintenance workers, refuse collectors, postal workers, vehicle breakdown employees, the police and so on. Unfortunately, this means that all these workers face risks on the road because they are doing their jobs. They can also create risks for everyone else who uses the road.

Michelle Harrington, Road Safety Manager for RoSPA Wales said: "The legal consequences of failing to manage occupational road risk can be extremely serious. In addition to helping employers understand their legal responsibilities, the guide explains how a positive road safety culture can protect employees and other road users, save costs, reduce business interruptions and avoid adverse publicity associated with crashes."

The free guide is designed for organisations that may not have considered this issue previously and are unsure how to proceed. Signposting to a great deal of additional support and advice, much of it free, is included to assist employers in developing effective ways to manage occupational road risk. The guides can be downloaded [from here](#).

## Learner Drivers to Have Motorway Lessons



From Monday 4 June 2018, learner drivers will be able to take driving lessons on motorways in England, Scotland and Wales. This will help to make sure more drivers know how to use motorways safely. At the moment, you can only have motorway lessons after you've passed your driving test. Learner drivers will need to be accompanied by an approved driving instructor in a car fitted with dual controls. Any motorways lessons will be voluntary, and it will be up to the driving instructor to decide when the learner driver is competent enough for them. Until the law changes, it's still illegal for a learner driver to drive on a motorway, and the changes only apply to learner drivers of cars; learner motorcyclists won't be allowed on motorways. Motorway driving is not being introduced to the driving test as part of this change.

## Operation Snap Launches Wales Wide



Motorists can now contribute to helping Wales's police forces keep roads safe by putting digital footage from dash cams and other devices to good use. As part of Operation Snap, members of the public throughout Wales can submit footage and images showing traffic offences being committed – from driving dangerously or carelessly to contravening solid white lines, using a mobile phone while driving or ignoring traffic lights.

Initially devised and piloted by the GoSafe unit in North Wales Police and the Road Casualty Reduction Partnership, the operation has now been introduced Wales-wide following

further developments by South Wales Police and GoSafe. It will give members of the public the power to assist forces in taking action against those who put other road users at risk.

The joint initiative between the four Welsh police forces, GoSafe and the Crown Prosecution Service, has attracted support from Cycling UK and The British Horse Society as well as a number of families who have lost loved ones as the result of a road traffic offence. To submit footage to any of the four Welsh Police Forces, visit [www.gosafesnap.wales](http://www.gosafesnap.wales) or [www.gosafesnap.cymru](http://www.gosafesnap.cymru)

## Newport Driver Wins Pass Plus Cymru Prize Draw



Mollie Scourfield is the latest winner of the Pass Plus Cymru quarterly prize draw and was presented with her £200 prize by the Mayor of Newport and the Cabinet Member for Streetscene.

Mollie said that she felt that the additional experience gained from the training provided by Pass Plus Cymru was extremely useful, and the element dedicated to motorway driving was particularly worthwhile. As a means of improving the skills of young drivers like herself, she feels that Pass Plus Cymru is amazing and would recommend it. At £20, it represents excellent value for money.

The Mayor of Newport, Councillor David Fouweather, presented Mollie with her prize and said "I am delighted to be able to present

this prize to Mollie. Pass Plus Cymru is a scheme for young and novice drivers who have recently passed their driving test, and is a highly regarded scheme operated across Wales which aims to improve skills for young drivers."

The Pass Plus Cymru quarterly prize is drawn from those drivers who took the time to return feedback questionnaires about their experience of Pass Plus Cymru.

## Laser Qualifications for Welsh Camera Operators



Eight safety camera operators from Wales have become the latest students to achieve the Road Safety Support (RSS) laser operators' qualification. The police staff from the North Wales, South Wales and Dyfed Powys forces successfully completed the IQ Level 3 Award in Road Safety Enforcement Technology for Laser Operators. The qualification provides users of enforcement technology with the skills and knowledge they need to carry out their roles effectively, and is recognised and valued by the courts.

The course was delivered by Steve Langdon, Legal Support Manager, and Steve Callaghan, Technical Support Manager, of RSS, over five days. The qualification included various elements, including operating enforcement devices efficiently and lawfully, the technical and legal contexts in which the technology is used, the Home Office Type Approval process and calibration. Steve Langdon said: "It was a pleasure to teach such an excellent group of students who worked hard and interacted throughout the entire course. This was reflected in their exam marks which were among the highest achieved in this qualification."

## DVLA Code Challenge

Road Safety Wales has been delighted to partner with the DVLA for the Wales National Coding Challenge for 7 to 11 year olds, in association with Code Club and the STEM Ambassador Hub Wales.

The challenge enabled pupils to develop their problem solving, communication and teamwork skills as well as improving their knowledge of computer programming in a fun and innovative way, with the opportunity to win amazing prizes and funding for IT equipment for their schools.

With challenge themes relating to road safety, pollution free oceans and anti-bully, the Road Safety Wales challenge called for pupils to build a game to highlight how young people can spot hazards and stay safe while cycling - an extremely important message for children in this age group.

In a competition run by Road Safety Wales on the day, Siobhan Morris of Morrison Primary School, Swansea, was the lucky winner of a smart new cycle helmet. Huge congratulations to all the participating schools especially Our Lady and St Michael's R.C. Primary School, Abergavenny, their brilliant safer cycling game scooped second prize - £2,000 of IT equipment.

For a full list of winners and details of next year's competition, please visit the [DVLA Code Challenge Website](#)



## Learning from the Swedish Model



A contingent of multi agency partners across emergency services and Welsh Government have travelled to Sweden to explore how to reduce the number of serious and fatal collisions.

The ambition is to make Welsh roads the safest in the world, through learning from partners and pioneers, and visiting the Swedish Transport Administration. Their national approach, through design, enforcement, communication and legislation has created a culture where serious or fatal collisions are becoming a rarity due to their "Vision Zero initiative", which aims to eliminate deaths and serious injuries on the country's roads. Looking at serious and fatal collisions across Wales, it is important that a new approach is adopted to continue work being delivered by partners in the attempt to see

serious or fatal collisions disappear from roads across our country. Sweden's roads are considered some of the world's safest, and this is a golden opportunity to meet with the authorities to take inspiration from their work and share best practice. A great deal of work is being undertaken in Wales to reduce road traffic collisions, but even one death is one too many.